

coming in the morning and evening to the dams on the veldt to drink. The nest was made of dried grass, and was built in a crack in the rocks or under sloping stones. We never found the eggs, but got one nest with three young birds.]

122. *HETEROCORAX CAPENSIS.*

Heterocorax capensis (Licht.); Sharpe, Cat. B. iii. p. 12 (1877); id. ed. Layard, pp. 415, 845 (1875-84); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 637 (1903).

Corvus capensis Stark, Faun. S. Afr., Birds, i. p. 14 (1900).

a. ♂. Deelfontein, May 25, 1901.

The African Rook was not common; it was very like our European Rook in its ways. It bred in the neighbourhood of Deelfontein and laid two eggs. When taken young, the birds became very tame, and we had two live pets which made great friends with everyone in camp. Boer name "Swart Vogel."]

123. *CORVULTUR ALBICOLLIS.*

Corvultur albicollis (Lath.); Sharp, ed. Layard, p. 417 (1875-84); id. Cat. B. iii. p. 22 (1877); Stark, Faun. S. Afr., Birds, i. p. 10 (1900); Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, ii. p. 640 (1903).

a. ♀ ad. Deelfontein, April 14, 1902.

XXV.—*Description of a new Species of Dove of the Genus Haplopelia.* By T. SALVADORI, F.M.Z.S.

WHEN, in 1900, the portion of the 'Bulletin of the Liverpool Museum' containing the interesting Catalogue of the Pigeons in the Derby Museum was issued, I was surprised to find that a specimen stated to be from the interior of Cayenne was attributed to *Haplopelia principalis* Hartl. My surprise was due to the fact that this species had been described by Hartlaub as coming from Prince's Island in the Gulf of Guinea and not from South America.

At my request, Dr. Forbes very kindly sent me the

specimen in question for inspection, and in my paper on the Birds of Prince's Island* I have already stated that the supposed *H. principalis* of the Liverpool Museum is totally different from the bird of Prince's Island, of which I had before me four specimens collected by Signor L. Fea in that island.

Dr. Forbes very generously gave me permission to describe the specimen from Prince's Island, in case I should find that it belonged to a new species, as I hinted to him. Want of time, however, has hitherto prevented me, engaged as I was on other work, from publishing the results of my enquiries about this interesting bird, which I now name and describe as a new species.

HAPLOPELIA FORBESTI, sp. nov.

Supra umbrino-brunnea, sincipite cinerascente; collo postico viridi micante, pro adjectu lucis purpurascente; collo antico (gula alba excepta) pectoreque brunneo-rufescentibus, obsolete viridi micantibus; lateribus brunneis, abdomine medio et subcaudalibus albis; cauda brunnea, rectricibus mediis concoloribus, lateralibus fascia apicali latiuscula albida ornatis; pedibus in exuvie pallidis, rostro fusco. Long. tot. circa 230 mm.; al. 120; caud. 93; rostri culm. 14; tarsi 26.

The type specimen, which appears to be fully adult, had evidently been kept in confinement, as it has the tail-feathers, except the middle pair, much worn at the tips †.

About this specimen Dr. Forbes and Mr. Robinson have made several statements, which require some comments:—

(1) They say that the specimen has been "identified at the British Museum." I do not quite understand the meaning of this statement, as, to my knowledge, *H. principalis* was not represented in the British Museum at the time of the publication of the 'Catalogue of the Pigeons'—and is, perhaps, still wanting there. I suppose, however, that the statement refers to the identification having been made with the help of the ornithologists of the British Museum.

(2) Dr. Forbes and Mr. Robinson say that in the original

* Mem. R. Ac. Sci. Tor. (2) liii. p. 13 (1903).

† The label attached to the specimen reads as follows:—"Interior of Cayenne (*Leulbeater*, Sept., 1844). Length $9\frac{1}{2}$ in., extent 17 in."

Catalogue of Lord Derby's Collection this specimen has the same register-number as examples of *Leptoptila jamaicensis*. It is evident, however, that the author of the register did not perceive how utterly different the specimen under consideration is from the Jamaican bird.

(3) Dr. Forbes and Mr. Robinson say that the bird they call *H. principalis* "very nearly agrees with the description of *Columba erythrothorax* Temm. et Knip, from Surinam." This is a species which has not hitherto been identified and is said to have the under tail-coverts "cinnamon, not hoary grey as in their specimen." Neither of the statements in this paragraph are quite exact: I find that the specimen belonging to the Derby Museum has the under tail-coverts not hoary grey, but pure white, and besides the bird is quite different from the figure of *Columba erythrothorax*, which, as I have already stated in the 'Catalogue of Birds' (vol. xxi. p. 539), I have very little doubt represents the African *Haplopelia larvata*.

Having so far discussed the statements made by Dr. Forbes and Mr. Robinson with regard to the interesting specimen which they have attributed to *H. principalis*, I may add that it is totally different from all the other known species of the genus *Haplopelia*, and that Dr. Reichenow agrees with me in believing that it belongs to an undescribed species. Unfortunately, its locality is not known, but it is probably from some part of Western Africa.

Being on the subject of *Haplopelia*, I may remark that Capt. Alexander (Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 33) has described a new *Haplopelia poensis*, "similar to *H. principalis*, but with the under tail-coverts ashy (*cinereis*) instead of white." More recently, however (Ibis, 1903, p. 396) he has rejected this species, which he identifies with *Haplopelia simplex* (Hartl.) from San Thomé. But I much doubt the correctness of this identification, from the fact that between Fernando Po and San Thomé lies Prince's Island, where *H. principalis*, a perfectly distinct species, is found. It appears to me very improbable that the same species should exist in Fernando Po and San Thomé, while a different species lives in the intervening Prince's Island.